

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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INITIAL REACTION OF ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) TO CUBA BLOCKADE IN PRESS AND PARLIAMENT REFLECTS SKEPTICISM OR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT US MOTIVATION AND REAL EXISTENCE OF OFFENSIVE, NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CUBAN MISSILE BASES. COMMUNISTS NATURALLY FEEDING THIS SKEPTICISM PLAYING UP ALLEGED PREVIOUS US INTELLIGENCE ERRORS. IMPORTANT WE OBTAIN PROMPTLY BEST POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE THESE BASES TO TRY CONVINCE PSI LEADERS AND HENCE APPEAL AMONG OTHER THINGS TO THEIR KNOWN FIRM OPPOSITION PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR BASES. UNLESS PSI SO PERSUADED, IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY SUBJECT TO STRONG COMMUNIST PRESSURES, ESPECIALLY WHEN SOVIET POSITION IS CLEARER, TO INFLUENCE GOI AWAY FROM SUPPORT FOR US.

RMR

IT MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE TO CONVEY SUCH CONVINCING EVIDENCE (E.G. PHOTOS, NEUTRAL EYE-WITNESS STATEMENTS) TO PSI LEADERS, POSSIBLY NENNI HIMSELF, STRESSING THAT, APART FROM RIGHTNESS OF US POSITION, PSI IS, BY OPPOSITION TO US MOVE, OPPOSING ONLY SURE WAY TO BLOCK POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF IRBM CAPABILITY BY EXTREMELY IRRESPONSIBLE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SUCH EVIDENCE, PERHAPS INCLUDING CLEAR AND ENLARGED PRINTS OF PHOTOS GIVEN WIRE SERVICES, COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AS CURRENT CHAMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER 25 AND SUCH EVIDENCE WOULD BE USEFUL NOT ONLY WITH SOCIALISTS BUT TO REASSURE GOVERNMENT PARTIES.

REINHARDT

MRC/HM

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